

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 MCE-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /098 W

-----010486 021806Z /73

O 021730Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8030

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1124

VALLETTA AND LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MASS, CG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ZAIRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: A) STATE 27625; B) BONN 2032; C) NDJAMENA 429; D) KINSHASA 991;

E) KINSHASA 891; F) KINSHASA 7953 (8/22/77)

1. CLEARLY ANY DECISION CONCERNING ZAIRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
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CHAD (REFS A AND C) WOULD BE MADE BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU PERSONALLY.

REF B INDICATES THAT THE SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH MOBUTU
DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN.

2. AS DEPT WILL RECALL (REF F), MOBUTU HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR CHAD IN ITS CONFLICT WITH LIBYAN-BACKED REBLES,
STATING LAST AUGUST THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SERVING AS A CONDUIT

FOR US MILITARY EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR CHAD. AT THAT TIME, HOWEVER, MOBUT ALSO NOTED THAT, IN VIEW OF ZAIRE'S OWN SECURITY NEEDS, HE COULD ONLY CONSIDER TRANSFERRING US MILITARY EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN ZAIRE PROVIDED IT WERE IMMEDIATELY REPLACED. WE BELIEVE HIS VIEWS ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE CHANGED MUCH. WHILE SHABA HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, POTENTIAL THREAT REQUIRES CONTINUING SIZABLE FAZ PRESENCE IN THAT AREA. MOREOVER, RECENT DISORDERS IN BANDUNDU (REFS D AND E) CREATE ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON GOZ'S SECURITY FORCES. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WOULD PRESUMABLY APPLY TO THE TRANSFER OF ANY FRENCH OR BELGIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW IN ZAIRE.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THE CHADIAN REQUEST FOR ZAIRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (REF C) ONLY INVOLVES THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, THEMSELVES, ARE IN NO POSITION TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN CHAD. MOREOVER, EVEN WERE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED TO THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, DIRECT COMBAT INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL EFFECTIVENESS.

4. IN VIEW OF KEY FRENCH ROLE DURING SHABA CRISIS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, FRENCH WOULD SEEM TO BE IN PARTICULARLY GOOD POSITION TO ENCOURAGE GOZ HELP TO CHAD. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOF MIGHT PERSUADE GOZ TO MAKE AIRCRAFT (E.G. MIRAGES OR A C-130) TEMPORARILY AVAILABLE. AGAIN, HOWEVER, GOZ WOULD PROBABLY LOOK TO FRENCH TO PROVIDE TO GOZ APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION TO ASSURE NO DEGRADATION IN ZAIRE'S CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA01124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0943, D780050-0409
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802102/aaaadhzn.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ed4cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 27625, 78 BONN 2032, 78 NDJAMENA 429, 78 KINSHASA 991
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3432391
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ZAIRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, CG, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ed4cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014